

A3815(GOGA-PASE)

The Honorable Louise H. Renne
City Attorney
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 325
San Francisco, California 94102-0917

Dear Ms. Renne:

We are writing in response to your letter of August 2, 2001. Your letter summarizes information from GGNRA letters and press releases, as well as from our June 8, 2001, meeting and past San Francisco Board of Supervisors meetings. We have not attempted in this letter to address the accuracy of each of your characterizations but have answered specific questions raised in your correspondence.

You inquired about the timeline and status of the Advance Notice of Proposed Ruling (ANPR). It was drafted by the park and sent to Washington, DC, for review on July 6, 2001. Although we cannot predict when the review of the draft will be completed, we can assure you that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area would like to move forward with this public process as soon as possible. Because we cannot predetermine the outcome of the ANPR process, we are unable to say precisely what date we will make a decision whether to engage in the rulemaking process.

In the draft ANPR currently under review, we suggest a 90-day comment period after it is published in the Federal Register. While under review in Washington, DC, the ANPR is an internal document and cannot be released to the public. We apologize for any misunderstanding regarding the status of the document or the timing of its release. We will certainly forward the ANPR to you once it is finalized for public release.

We are continuing to review staffing needs to support the ANPR process through Fiscal Year 2002. Because we cannot predict the date of the ANPR publication, pending Washington review, we have not made the decision to add staffing just yet. We are also continuing to explore outside facilitators to manage the public process upon release of the ANPR. We will keep you informed as this process moves forward.

Beginning January 2001, the 12-acre closure at Fort Funston was closed year-round to park visitors and pets. Prior to the closure, the public was informed that in light of recommendations by the GGNRA Advisory Commission, NPS will study the option of removing the fences and permitting public access and on-leash dogwalking on designated trails within the closure area as an alternative means of protecting the resources and public safety, after the native plants are established and the public is adequately informed of and accustomed to the prohibition on access to the cliff areas and the regulatory dogs-on-leash requirements. This alternative could take the form of an NPS planning effort for Fort Funston, possibly through the ANPR process.

As we discussed in the meeting, all units of the National Park System are managed as one, regardless of title. Although Golden Gate National Recreation Area is our legislative name, the name Golden Gate National Parks was developed to include the diverse and geographically far-reaching park sites, which, while under the one management of GGNRA, are separate units of the National Park System. Fort Point National Historic Site, established in 1970, and Muir Woods National Historic Site, established in 1908, now fall under the management of GGNRA. For simplicity's sake, they are collectively known as the Golden Gate National Parks.

Please feel free to contact Rich Weideman in our Public Affairs office at (415) 561-4730, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Neill
General Superintendent